

MILFORD HAVEN URBAN DISTRICT
COUNCIL



R E P O R T
of the
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
for the
Year ended
31st December, 1941.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Report for the year 1941.

POPULATION -

Estimated by Medical Officer	12,000
Estimated by Registrar General	11,070

BIRTHS -

<u>Live-Births</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Legitimate	94	108
Illegitimate	6	5
<u>Total</u> - 213	<u>Birth Rate</u> - 17.7	

Birth Rate for England and Wales - 14.7

There has been very little variation in the birth rate during the last five years.

DEATHS -

<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
67	47
<u>Total</u> - 114	<u>Death Rate</u> - 9.5

Death Rate for England and Wales - 12.9

There were no deaths during childbirth, but one mother died in hospital of sepsis following abortion.

The chief causes of death were Cancer and Diseases of the Circulatory System.

INFANTILE MORTALITY -

No. of deaths under one year - 13

Five were due to Prematurity and Congenital Diseases.

Death Rate per thousand births	61
Death Rate for England and Wales	59

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES -

Disease	Total Notified	Admitted to Hospital	Deaths
Scarlet Fever	29	0	Nil
Diphtheria	1	1	Nil
Pneumonia	24	0	7
Erysipelas	4	0	Nil
Whooping Cough	25	0	Nil
Measles	100	0	Nil

Apart from Pneumonia, there were no deaths from any of the notifiable diseases.

DIPHTHERIA -

One case only was notified. This compares with three in 1940, six in 1939 and an average of 47 during the five pre-war years.

There has been a welcome response on the part of parents to have their children immunised. Altogether 3,058 have been inoculated during the last two and a half years.

TUBERCULOSIS -

Number notified 16. This compares with 9 in 1940 and 23 in 1939. Four cases were among non-residents.

There is no apparent increase in Tuberculosis in the town due to war conditions.

WATER SUPPLY -

This is very satisfactory.

SCAVENGING -

This has been carried out satisfactorily in spite of the increase in population and the extra work involved by the Salvage Drive.

My remarks in previous reports on the necessity for a new Infants School, extension of the sewerage scheme and the Housing needs of the town still hold good.

MIDWIVES -

Total number - 6

The town is fortunate in having the services of highly trained and very efficient midwives.

FOOD -

This has been considerably modified by the war both in quantity and quality, but the Ministry of Food has been remarkably successful with its rationing scheme. Children get more milk than ever before and up to 8 years of age, except for butter, are as well off as before the war, and younger children are liberally supplied with Vitamins in the form of Orange Juice, Black Currant Juice and Cod-Liver Oil.

The most likely person to suffer is the mother, who through sacrifice and self-denial, will give part of her rations to her children rather than see them go hungry, and the Soldiers wife, with several children, will suffer most of all because many commodities are beyond her reach. She cannot afford, for instance, to pay 1/7 a pound for tomatoes and 1/- for a lettuce.

Great responsibility rests on Health Authorities to see that pregnant women do not suffer, otherwise the war will leave its mark on the future generation. Here again the Ministry of Food has helped by placing such women in a priority group in respect of a supply of Milk and Eggs. But this does not go far enough. More should be done for these mothers who after three years of anxiety, with restrictions of all kinds, are beginning to weary, for their burden is a very heavy one. It will be a great help when the scheme for school meals materialises as this will relieve them of preparing the chief meal of the day.

During the year a British Restaurant was opened in the town and it has proved a great boon to certain people working here and to others who visit the town. Great credit is due to the Manageress for the successful running of this establishment under very adverse conditions.

In some respects the Restaurant has not come up to expectations. Those most in need of a meal "off the ration", namely the working class mothers, are unable to benefit because they have to stay at home and prepare meals for their children. (It would be interesting to learn how many women from your extensive housing estates have ever attended). We were told by officials of the Ministry that the Restaurant would be a means of saving food and that all sorts of savoury and nutritious, if unusual, dishes, with carrots and other vegetables as a basis, would be available. But such is not the case. It is, of course, impossible in war time to provide ideal meals and the principles of dietetics cannot be adhered to, but the Restaurant should be regarded not only as a place where a balanced meal can be obtained, but as a centre for diffusing knowledge on food values amongst women and girls, and for demonstrating the most economical ways of preparing different meals. The Cookery Teachers of the Secondary Schools might co-operate in this work. Thus would the British Restaurant by precept and example, contribute towards the problem of improving the nutrition of the nation.

Your Sanitary Inspector, as usual, has been very energetic in his efforts to improve the sanitary circumstances of the town, and in his inspection of food, particularly the milk supply.

In conclusion I would report that the health of the town in general has been remarkably good in spite of overcrowding, the black-out, shortage of some essential foods and the worry and anxiety of the war. There was no epidemic of Influenza or of any other dangerous disease, but the factors mentioned above will in time have a deleterious effect on the health of the people, and now that we are approaching the fourth year of war, we are reminded that it was during the fourth year of the last war that the great Influenza epidemic swept throughout the world and killed more people in a few months than did the war in four years.

I am, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,

H. O. Williams

Medical Officer of Health.

